

Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
ACF Form 812-TANF Data Reporting

Background

Funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program was extended through September 30, 2011 by the Claims Resolution Act of 2010. The Act included new reporting requirements on States relating to engagement in work activities by recipients of cash assistance. In Nebraska the work requirement portion of TANF is referred to as Employment First. Corresponding cash assistance benefits are provided through the ADC program.

This summary and analysis relates to Nebraska's first submission of the data required by the new reporting requirements. It includes data collected on work activities of Employment First participants during the month of March 2011.

Since 1997 Nebraska has met the federally mandated 50% Work Participation Rate for TANF recipient families. Our unofficial FFY 2011 WPR is 51.0% through March 2011. The summary data from the supplemental report reflects this trend.

Summary

Nebraska provides benefits to families through two funding sources. For this report period 6,652 families received assistance through TANF funds. In addition, 1,415 families received benefits paid with State Only funds. We provided supplemental data for a sample of 178 TANF cases and 180 Separate State (State Only funds) Program cases.

The data provided in the supplemental reports reflects what Nebraska reported in the ACF-199 Quarterly report for the same period. Reasons why sampled cases didn't meet rate included insufficient number of hours engaged in the activity, or engagement in limited work activities beyond the allowable time limits.

Forty-nine of the 180 participants in the SSP sample were exempt from work based on the state exemption for pregnant and post-pregnant individuals. This impacted the percentage of SSP participants with no hours of participation, 54.30% compared to 33.70% of TANF participants with no hours of participation. Of the TANF sampled participants within this category there are various barriers noted to their participation, but we have provided the percentage, 7.9%, of those participants who will be sanctioned for non-participation.

Conversely 48.6% of the SSP sample and 68% of the TANF sample were engaged in some countable activities. Some of these individuals did not have enough hours to meet rate, but they were actively participating.

Because of Nebraska's documentation and verification processes we had no sample cases where countable activities didn't meet standards.

For the TANF caseload Nebraska had 0 cases where the individual was engaged in non-countable work activities. The Separate State Program provides benefits to participants who are seeking a Bachelor's Degree so supplemental data reveals 1 of the 180 participants was engaged in our Post Secondary Education program which is a non-countable work activity.